

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE TRINIDAD RANCHERIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HOTEL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

#### CHER-AE HEIGHTS INDIAN COMMUNITY OF THE TRINIDAD RANCHERIA HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pacific Regional Office, has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), determining that the Indian Loan Guarantee by the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED): Division of Capital Investment (DCI) for capital to build a hotel adjacent to the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria's (Tribe's) Cher-Ae Heights Casino (Casino) on the Reservation; and the approval by the Division of Real Estate Services of a business lease between the Tribe and the Trinidad Rancheria Economic Development Corporation (TREDC) to operate the hotel will not result in significant effects to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The BIA's determination is based upon the analysis in the Environmental Assessment and Final Environmental Assessment, consideration of comments received during the public review periods, and the implementation of mitigation measures.

The proposed federal action consists of approving a loan guarantee to the Tribe for development of a 100-room hotel and accessory components such as a lobby, meeting rooms/conference rooms, a business center, fitness room, café/bar, lounge, rooftop event space, an indoor pool, and a porte-cochere and the associated business lease agreement between the Tribe and TREDC for the operation of the facility. The proposed federal action would assist the Tribe in maintaining the socioeconomic status of the Tribe, create new jobs for both tribal and non-tribal members, reduce visitor trips on local roadways, provide additional amenities to existing patrons, and allow the target market to expand and tribal members to enhance their economic self-sufficiency. The proposed federal action would ensure that the Tribe continues to maintain a long-term, viable, and sustainable revenue base and allow the Tribe to continue to compete with other gaming and tourist attraction venues in the region. Increased revenues from the hotel would fund governmental programs and services, enable hiring additional staff, upgrading equipment and facilities, and improving governmental operations, decrease the Tribe's dependence on federal and State grants and assistance programs, fund donations to charitable organizations and governmental operations, fund local governmental agencies, programs, and services, and provide capital for other economic development and investment opportunities. Operation of the hotel would require the purchase of goods and services, increasing opportunities for local businesses and stimulating the local economy. A "No Project" alternative was also evaluated in the EA.

The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore it cannot be appealed. 25 C.F.R. Part 2.7 requires a 30-day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

Public review of the FONSI initiates March 6, 2020 and expires on March 20, 2020. The FONSI with Exhibits is available at <https://trinidad-rancheria.org/>. The FONSI without Exhibits is available at <https://bianepatracker2.doi.gov/>. To locate the FONSI without Exhibits, please navigate to the NEPA Documents Tab and search for Project: TR-4314b-P5 J52 566T TREDC Hotel FONSI. Hardcopies of the FONSI are available for public review at the Tribal Office located at 1 Cher-Ae Lane, Trinidad, CA 95570, and at the Trinidad Branch of the Humboldt County Library located at 380 Janis Court, Trinidad, CA 95570. Publication of the NOA will occur in the Times-Standard with Offices located at 903 Sixth Street, Eureka California 95501.

For more information, please contact Mr. Dan Hall, Regional Archaeologist at (916) 978-6041 or Mr. Felix Kitto, Regional Environmental Scientist at (916) 978-6051.